

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 01920 161619Z  
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /023 W  
-----008617 162207Z /64

R 161506Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6941  
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 01920

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINR, GER  
SUBJECT: NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY FOR  
AGITATION AND PROPAGANDA NAMED

1. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND ANNOUNCED MARCH 14 THAT ITS  
EDITOR, JOACHIM HERRMANN, HAS BEEN NAMED PARTY  
SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SED FOR  
AGITATION AND PROPAGANDA, SUCCEEDING THE LATE  
WERNER LAMBERZ.

2. HERRMANN, WHO IS A CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THE  
POLITBURO AND ALREADY A PARTY SECRETARY, HAS BEEN  
EDITOR OF NEUES DEUTSCHLAND SINCE 1971 AND A  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERLIN 01920 161619Z

PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST-EDITOR SINCE 1952. FROM  
1965 TO 1971 HERRMANN WORKED WITHIN THE GDR GOVERNMENT  
ON INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS. HERRMANN IS A PROTEGE OF  
ERICH HONECKER AND HAS BUILT HIS CAREER, AT LEAST IN  
PART, ON THE BASIS OF HIS EARLY ASSOCIATION WITH  
HONECKER IN THE FREE GERMAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION. HE  
HAS BEEN A CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO SINCE

1973 AND A PARTY SECRETARY SINCE 1976. AS PARTY SECRETARY, HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS AND HAS BEEN A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE GDR. HE IS REPORTEDLY INTELLIGENT AND A HARD WORKER. AT 49, HERRMANN IS AMONG THE YOUNGEST OF THE PARTY SECRETARIES.

3. HERRMANN'S SUCCESSOR AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF NEUES DEUTSCHLAND IS GUENTER SCHABOWSKI, FORMERLY ONE OF SEVERAL DEPUTY EDITORS.

4. COMMENT. HERRMANN'S APPOINTMENT AS PARTY SECRETARY FOR THE KEY POSITION OF AGITATION AND PROPAGANDA APPEARS TO CONSTITUTE A PROMOTION FOR HERRMANN IN TERMS OF RESPONSIBILITIES IF NOT OF RANK AND SUGGESTS THAT HE MAY WELL BE CONSIDERED FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE POLITBURO. AS ONE OF THE YOUNGEST AND PROBABLY MOST ABLE, HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO HAVE AN IMPORTANT IMPACT ON GDR POLICIES. CLEARLY HIS MAIN RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE DOMESTIC PROPAGANDA, FOR WHICH HE IS UNUSUALLY WELL QUALIFIED. HE WILL ALSO PROBABLY HAVE A POLICY ROLE IN REGARD TO CULTURAL ISSUES WHICH WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE REGIME'S RELATIONS WITH DISSIDENT INTELLECTUALS. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER HE WILL RETAIN HIS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR INNER-GERMAN ISSUES. HERRMANN IS A CLOSE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BERLIN 01920 161619Z

ASSOCIATE OF HONECKER AND HIS APPOINTMENT SHOULD MEAN THAT HONECKER'S POSITION WITHIN THE POLITBURO AND HIGHER PARTY APPARATUS REMAINS AT LEAST AS STRONG AS IT WAS BEFORE LAMBERZ' DEATH. IT SHOULD ENSURE THAT HONECKER CAN KEEP THE EAST GERMAN MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA APPARATUS UNDER CONTROL. IT WOULD ALSO SEEM TO BE A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN HONECKER'S INNER-GERMAN POLICY. END COMMENT. BOLEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROPAGANDA, CENTRAL COMMITTEE, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, POLITICAL PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BERLIN01920  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780118-0028  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BERLIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780362/aaaacaic.tel  
**Line Count:** 102  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 3c2d4bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION INR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3315167  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY FOR AGITATION AND PROPAGANDA NAMED  
**TAGS:** PINR, GC, (HERRMANN, JOACHIM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/3c2d4bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014